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probably where a handful had been thrown. One of the stem ends of a squash was found and showed by its shape that the vegetable had not been of the flat, summer squash variety. The seeds were of two or perhaps three sorts. First there was a long, narrow seed resembling some of the large gourd seeds. The other type was much thicker through, and apparently represented two varieties, judging from the difference in size. One of these was as long as the first mentioned, but as has been said, was thicker. The second, of the same shape, averaged very little over half as large. 172X 241

The small black seeds above referred to were found intermixed with the other vegetable remains in the layers. They had a hard shiny shell and thus even when not charred had lasted well. The charred ones, however, were in much the best state. Seeds of this genus of plants are eaten in South America, and are decidedly valuable for food, and, although there is no mention of their use as food by the Mandans, they may have been so used.

In addition to the vegetables themselves there were other finds of vegetable origin. Among these were objects of bark, wood and grass. The most notable of the bark finds were two large pieces of birch bark, found together in one of the pits. These have perforations where they had been sewed and probably formed a part of a basket or box. The birch is not found within one hundred miles or more of this region, and the bark receptacle must have come through trade with some more eastern nation. Other finds were three or four flat disc-like coils, about four to five inches in diameter, with a hole in the center. These were made of the very thin inner bark, probably of the cottonwood, in the shape of a mat and bound around the outside with another strand of the same bark. It is very likely that these are identical with the stands upon which the pots were set, as described by Henry. In one place a small quantity of bark flakes was found, and it is barely possible that these may be remnants of smoking materials of *Cornus*. 172X 285

The only article made of grass was a small charred piece of cord, although burnt grass occurred frequently in the black layers, and decayed grass or hay was found as a lining in the 172X 283

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X 172 pits. The cord mentioned consisted of three strands, each of six or seven prairie grass stems; these three strands were not braided, but twisted.

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The remains of posts and sticks were often in such a condi-
X 172 tion that the wood could be identified. One of the largest posts found in the house site was of ash, but most of the large ones
313 were clearly cut out of cottonwood. For the smaller posts, however, the diamond willow seems to have been most frequently used, and it is unquestionably the best wood. A few specimens of worked wood were found but none of great importance. There was a post, hewed square; a number of pieces of planks or slabs, fairly well cut; remnants of willow thatch from the roof; and a small piece of wood which had been whittled down with a blade of some sort.

The ashes showed the use of at least two sorts of fire wood, one giving a white ash and the other a red one. The red was probably diamond willow in most cases, as that is the only common wood in the region which leaves a reddish residue.

X 172 ANIMAL BONES:—Animal bones were numerous in all parts of the village site, not only in the form of implements, which have already been discussed, but also as refuse. Many of the bones were broken up into small fragments, but a number of whole ones were discovered and most of them have been identified. There were fish, bird and mammal bones belonging for the most part to the following species: Deer (*Cariacus virginianus*), Buffalo (*Bison americanus*), Elk (*Cervus canadensis*), Antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Coyote (*Canis latrans*), Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), owl (*Strigidae sp.*), and Bald Eagle (*Haliaëtus leucocephalus*), besides bones of smaller birds, some that seemed to be from a crane but could not be accurately identified; bones of mice and gophers; some few fish bones, and quite a number of unio and small snail shells. It is a significant fact that no remains whatever of either horse or dog skeletons were found, thus apparently showing that the horse had not yet got to the Mandans when they lived on the Heart, and also corroborating Henry's statement that the Mandans at first had no dogs.

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